

# Site Evaluation: Why Important?

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- Use information to estimate number of lakes
  - that are in United States
  - that are physically inaccessible
  - that landowners deny access
  - that are in NHD but not actually lakes
- Over time this will be less important as improvements are made to lake sample frame – need to invest in this effort



# Lake Evaluation and Recon Steps

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- Step 1: Initial Screen: national
  - Completed by Tetra-Tech/USEPA
- Step 2: Desktop Reconnaissance: state
  - Initial lake evaluation to identify obvious
    - Based on GIS, topo maps, local knowledge
  - Information necessary for field recon if needed
  - Landownership identified
  - Acquire information required to complete field sampling
- Step 3: Field Reconnaissance: state
  - Initial field visit to verify lake evaluation for lakes that could not be evaluated in step 2.
  - May not require landowner permission
  - Acquire information required to complete field sampling
- Step 4: Acquire landowner permission: state
- Step 5: Field sampling and final lake evaluation: state



# Lake Evaluation Forms

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- Standard national lake evaluation form
  - Designed to be scanned for data entry
  - Forms submitted
    - weekly (?) for processing
    - State keeps copy
  - Every lake provided to state must have a submitted lake evaluation form
- Field sampling forms submitted only for those lakes visited with the intention to sample
  - Most lakes will include field measurement forms
  - Few lakes will only have field lake evaluation form when the waterbody is determined not to be a lake.



# Quality Assurance Lake Evaluations

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- Critical that all use the same lake evaluation process
- Consistency, consistency, consistency...
  - Application of criteria for being a lake
  - Effort to gain landowner permission
  - Physical access effort